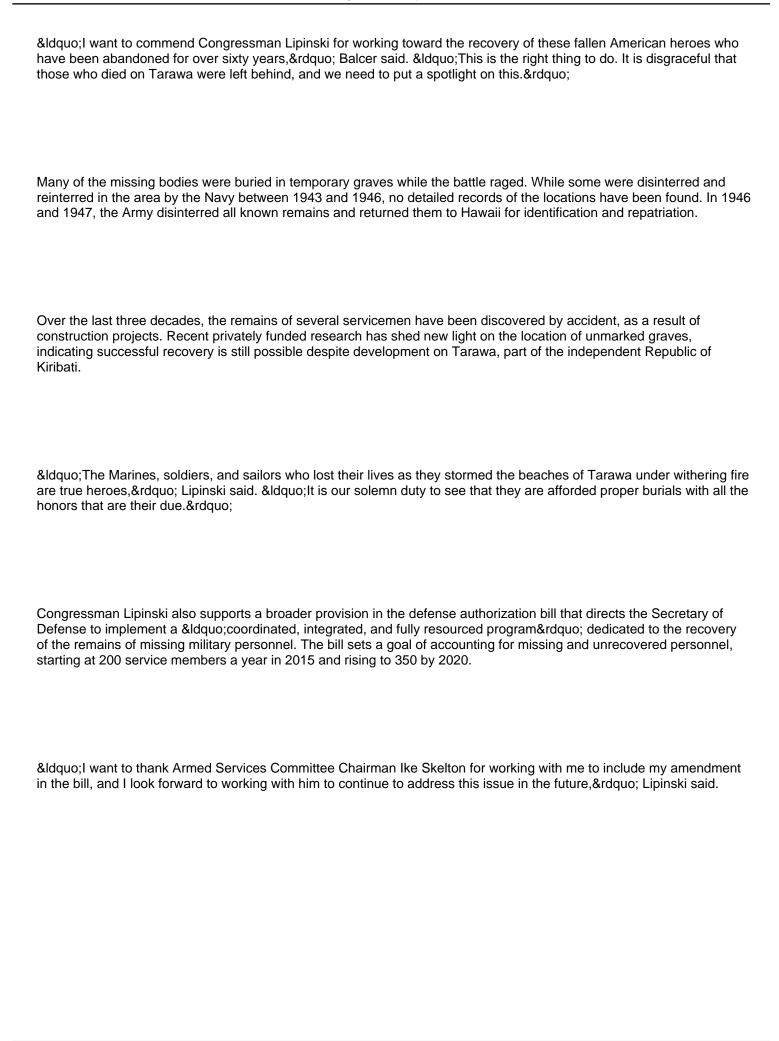
LIPINSKI PRESSES DEFENSE DEPARTMENT TO LOCATE REMAINS OF U.S. SERVICE MEMBERS IN BATTLE OF TARAWA

(June 26, 2009)
Efforts to bring home the remains of more than 500 U.S. service members killed in the World War II Battle of Tarawa received a boost from Congressman Dan Lipinski (IL-03) this week. Before the defense authorization bill passed the House of Representatives on Thursday, Lipinski succeeded in attaching an amendment that calls for the Defense Department to &Idquorecover, identify, and return remains of members of the Armed Forces from Tarawa."
" Though they lie buried on a distant island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, we cannot forget the courage and sacrifice of those who perished on the shores of Tarawa sixty-six years ago, " Lipinski said. " We must do everything possible to see that their remains are recovered and their families are given a chance to return them to the nation in whose defense they died. "
Tarawa, located halfway between Australia and Hawaii, was the scene of one of the bloodiest battles of World War II. More than 1,100 American lives were lost in three days beginning on Nov. 20, 1943, as the 2 Marine Division and part of the Army's 27 Infantry took the island in an amphibious assault, dislodging an entrenched force of 5,000 Japanese soldiers.
Congressman Lipinski's amendment to the defense authorization bill, H.R. 2647, urges the Department of Defense to review new research on the location of the remains of U.S. servicemen on Tarawa and to do everything feasible to see that they are recovered. A total of 564 service members remain unaccounted for.
11 Ward Chicago Alderman James Balcer, a decorated Marine veteran of the Vietnam War, has fought to focus attention on the missing remains on Tarawa, showing leadership on the issue by introducing a resolution that passed the Chicago City Council on a unanimous vote. Lipinski included Balcer's resolution in the Congressional Record as he spoke on the floor of the House of Representatives urging his colleagues to vote for the amendment.

http://www.lipinski.house.gov Powered by Joomla! Generated: 27 June, 2009, 04:42



http://www.lipinski.house.gov Powered by Joomla! Generated: 27 June, 2009, 04:42